

# Family Participation in the Workforce

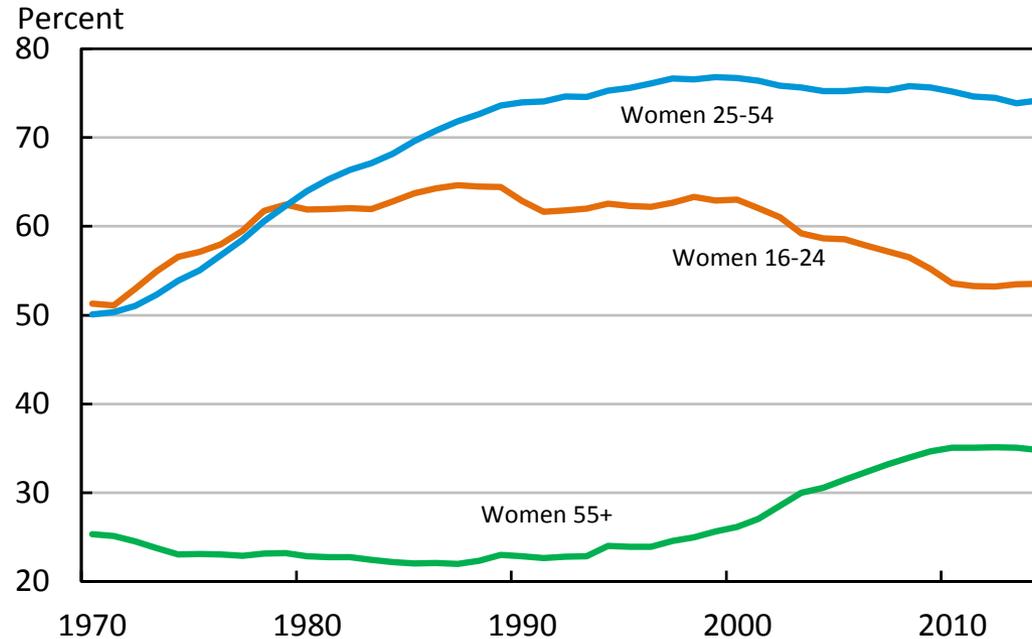
Council of Economic Advisers



April 30, 2014

# Female Labor Force Participation Has Increased Since the 1970s

**Female Labor Force Participation by Age Group,  
1970-2014**



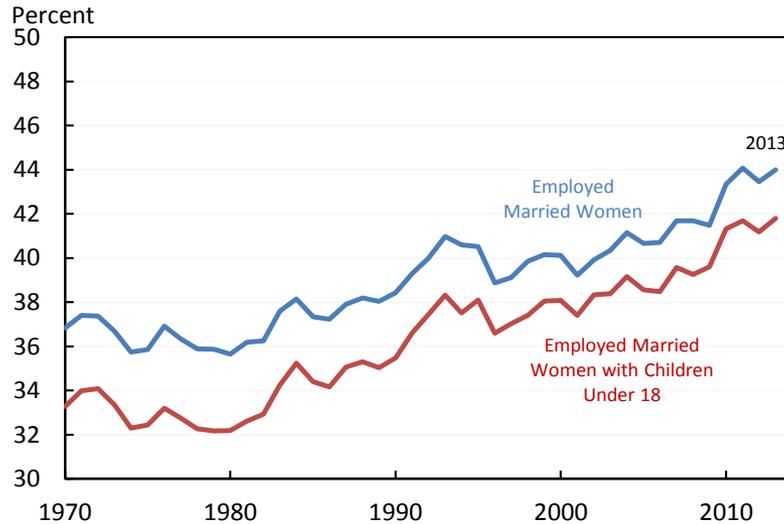
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Women's labor force participation grew quickly for those born from the 1920s to the 1960s; however, it has plateaued for more recent cohorts.**

- *About 75 percent of women ages 25-54 are currently working, compared to 50 percent in 1970.*
- *Young women's workforce participation has fallen in recent decades. One reason is that young women are attending college and graduate school more than in the past.*
- *Older women have increased their participation over the past 15 years.*

# Over the Longer Term, Married Women Earnings Have Increased as a Share of Family Earnings

## Employed Married Women's Percent Contribution to Family Earnings



Source: Current Population Survey.

## Percent of Married Women Earning More Than Their Husband



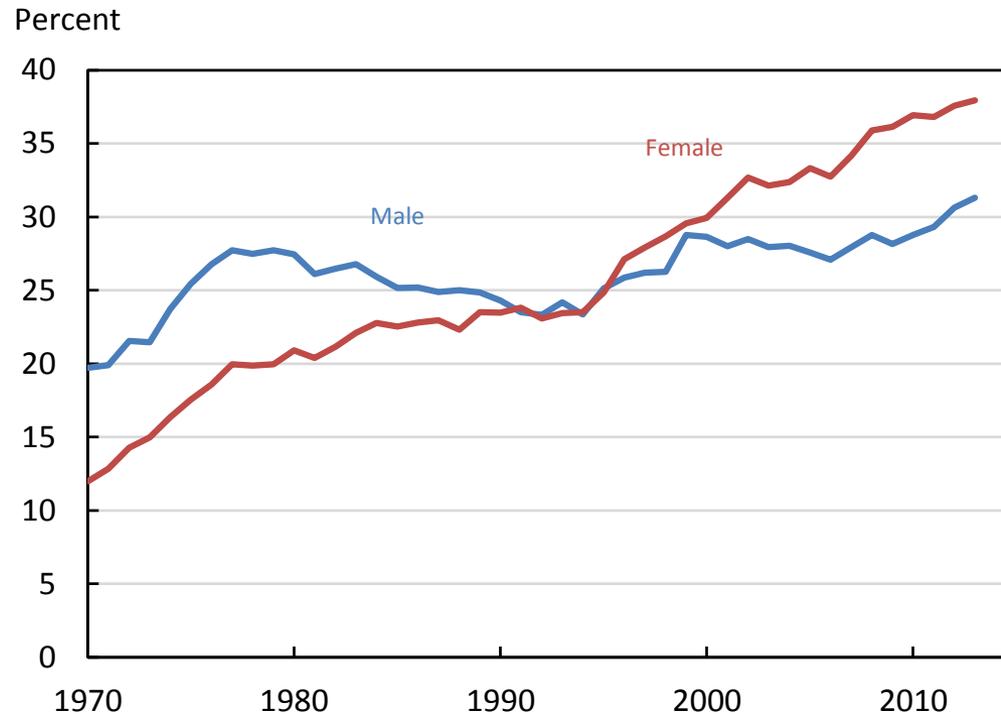
Source: Current Population Survey.

**Women's earnings have continued to grow in importance to American families, despite the stall in their labor force participation.**

- *Employed married women's earnings are now 44 percent of their families earnings, up from 37 percent in the 1970s.*

# College Completion Rates Have Risen Among Both Men and Women

**People Ages 25-34 With a College Degree, 1970-2013**



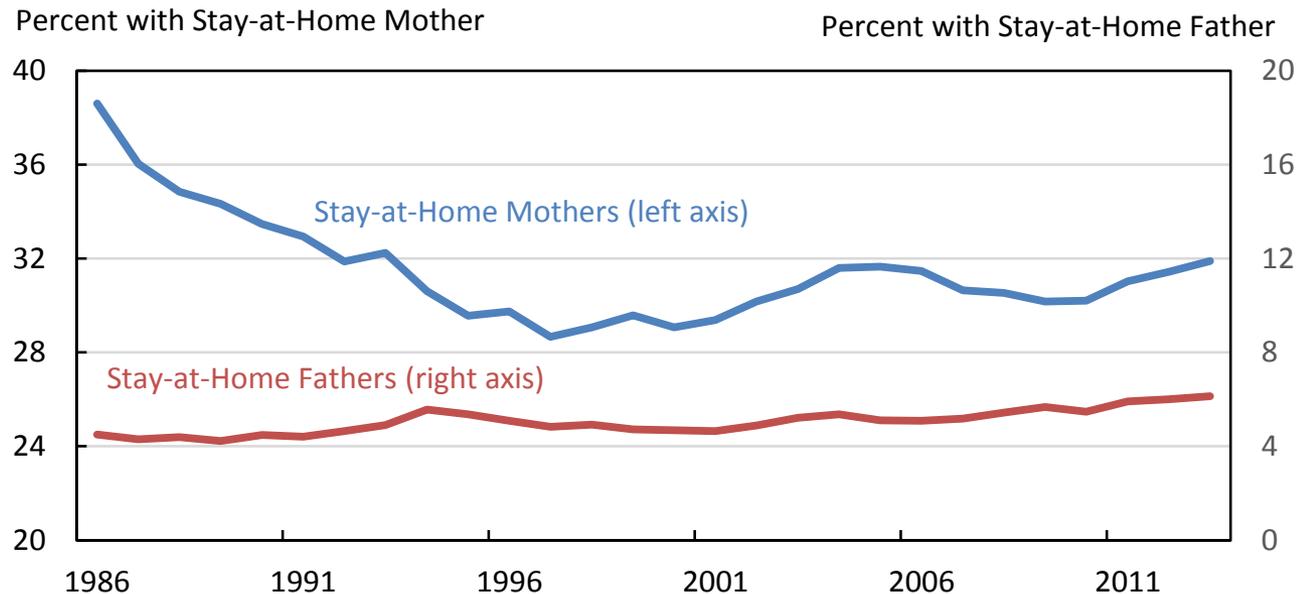
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Since the 1970s, college completion rates have increased for both men and women, but more so for women.**

- *Women's college going has caught up with men's and surpassed it in recent decades. Women are both more likely to go to college and more likely to graduate from college when they go.*

# The Number of Stay-At-Home Moms Has Fallen Since the 1980s; the Number of Stay-At-Home Dads Has Risen

**Percent of Married Parent Families With a Stay-at-Home Mother or Father, 1986-2013**



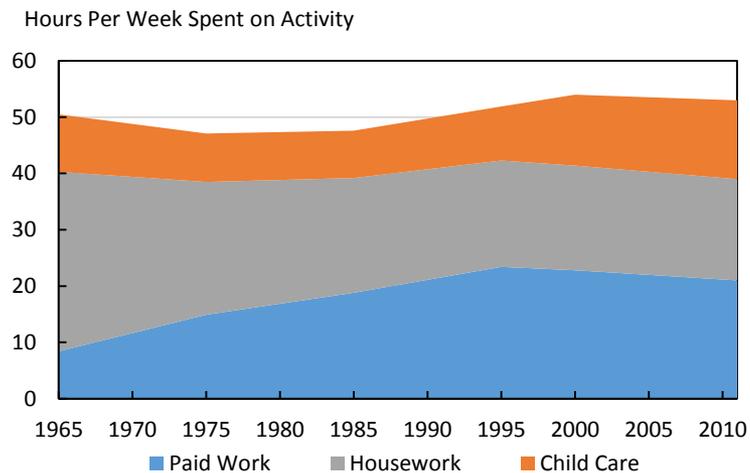
Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

**Among married parents, more mothers are entering the labor force, and more fathers are staying at home.**

- *The share of families with a stay-at-home dad has increased since the early 1990s, from 4 percent of all married parents with kids to about 6 percent of all married parents with kids.*
- *At the same time, the fraction of families with two working parents has risen, and the fraction of families with a stay-at-home mom has fallen*

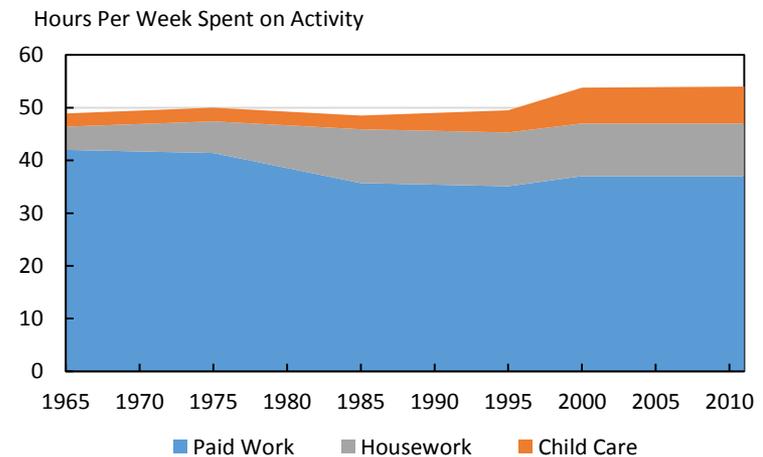
# Mothers and Fathers Are Spending More Time With Their Children

## Mothers' Average Weekly Time Use



Source: Bianchi, et al (2006); American Time Use Survey (2011).

## Fathers' Average Weekly Time Use

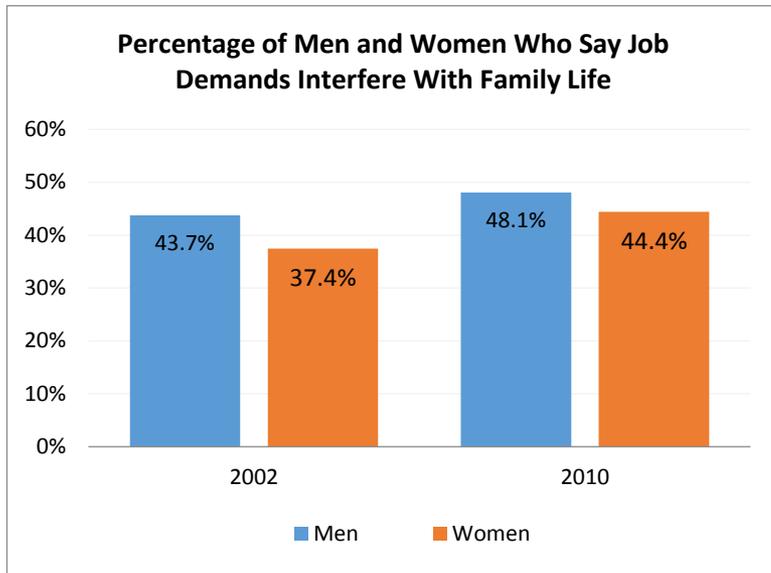


Source: Bianchi, et al (2006); American Time Use Survey (2011).

**Both mothers and fathers have increased the amount of time spent with their children by about four hours a week since the 1960s.**

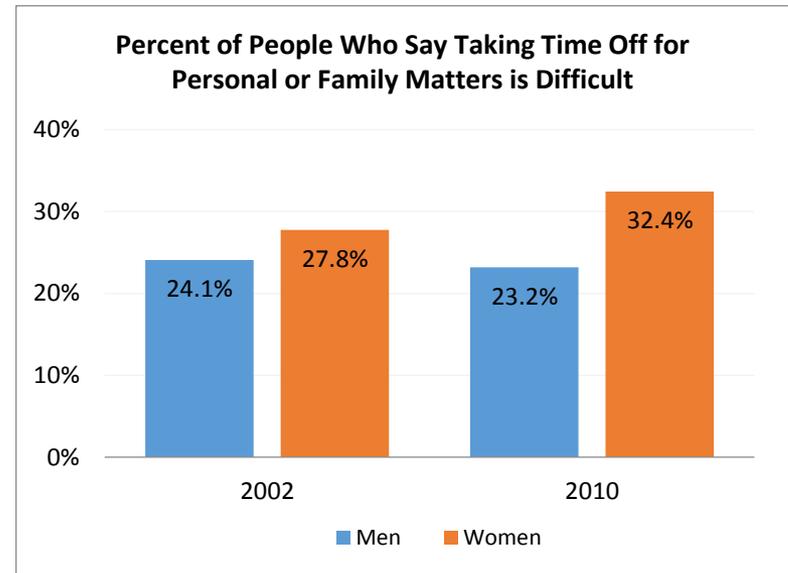
- *The amount of time in paid work has increased for women, offset by a decline in housework.*
- *The amount of time in paid work has slightly fallen for men*

# Balancing Work and Family is Difficult for Many Workers



Source: General Social Survey (2002, 2010)

Note: Respondents who say work interferes with family “sometimes” or “often”



Source: General Social Survey (2002, 2010).

Note: Respondents who say taking time off is “somewhat” or “very” hard

**The share of workers who report difficulties balancing work and family has increased over the past decade.**

- 44 percent of women, and 48 percent of men report their job interferes with family life.
- Women are more likely to say that taking time off is difficult, after controlling for education and whether the worker is paid hourly.
- The share of women reporting difficulties in taking time off for family matters has increased since 2002; the share of men reporting this concern has slightly fallen.